

remained unshaken, they had received repeated charges with a characteristic coolness and intrepidity that have no equal. The Emperor might at this moment have broken off the engagement, but if it was to be continued, it could only be done by destroying the English army before the Prussians, who were expected, should arrive, for at this time General Domont, who had been detached to watch the progress of the Prussians, announced that a corps of 10,000 men was in full march towards Planchenoit, and by half-past four Bulow's guns opened on Domont.

"The French about this period concentrated their artillery particularly on the left of the Genappe *ckaussée* in front of La Belle Alliance, and commenced a heavy fire (a large proportion of the guns were twelve-pounders) on that part of the British line extending from behind La Haye Sainte towards Hougomont: the infantry sheltered themselves by lying down, behind the ridge of the rising ground, and bore the fire with heroic patience. Several of the English guns had been disabled, and many artillerymen killed and wounded, so that this fire was scarcely returned, but when the new point of attack was no longer doubtful two brigades were brought from Lord Hill's corps on the right, and were of most essential service."

"The British army had sustained several severe attacks, which had been all repulsed, and no advantage of any consequence had been gained by the enemy. They had possessed part of the wood and garden of Hougomont and La Haye Sainte, which latter they were unable to occupy. A square had been broken, shaken, or obliged to retire. The infantry continued to display the same obstinacy, the same cool, calculating confidence in themselves, in their commander, and in their officers, which had covered them with glory in the long and arduous war in the Peninsula. From the limited extent of the field of battle, and the tremendous fire their columns were exposed to, the loss of the enemy could not have been less than 15,000 killed and wounded. Two eagles and 2000 prisoners had been taken, and the French cavalry

<sup>1</sup> Captain Pringle.